

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-05 DRC-01

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O 051150Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6262

UNCLAS ROME 10686

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: TERRORIST BOMBING OF ROME-BRENNER EXPRESS

1. TERRORIST BOMBING OF ROME-BRENNER EXPRESS TRAIN DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 3-4 (ASSUME DETAILS AVAILABLE THROUGH NEWS SERVICES) HAS ONCE AGAIN SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH ITALIAN SOCIETY. THE TERRORIST ACT WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO COINCIDE WITH MASS VACATION EXODUS IN ITALY AND TO TAKE AS LARGE A TOLL AS POSSIBLE, OCCURRING AS IT DID AS THE TRAIN WAS PASSING THROUGH TEN-MILE LONG TUNNEL BETWEEN FLORENCE AND BOLOGNA. THIS BOMBING IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ACTS OF SABOTAGE DIRECTED AGAINST THE ITALIAN RAILROAD SYSTEM WHICH DATE BACK TO THE MID-SIXTIES.

2. THE DEATH TOLL IS MORE THAN THAT ARISING FROM THE MAY 28 BOMBING AT BRESCIA, BEING SURPASSED IN THE DEPLORABLE RECENT RECORD OF ITALIAN POLITICAL TERRORISM ONLY BY THE DEATH TOLL RESULTING FROM THE PIAZZA FONTANA BANK BOMBING IN MILAN ON DECEMBER 12, 1969. AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED QUICKLY IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE BOMBING, COMING AS IT DID AS THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN STEERING ITS ECONOMIC PACKAGE THROUGH PARLIAMENT. PRIME MINISTER RUMOR MADE A FLYING TRIP

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ON AUGUST 4 TO BOLOGNA TO MEET WITH THE TEAM INVESTIGATING THE

INCIDENT. HE IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT IN PARLIAMENT AUGUST 5.

3. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED AUGUST 4, PRESIDENT LEONE STRONGLY CONDEMNED THIS LATEST ACT OF VIOLENCE. HE ASSURED THE ITALIAN PUBLIC THAT QUOTE THE DEMOCRATIC STATE WILL NOT FALL AS RESULT OF THEIR (TERRORIST) BLOWS BECAUSE DEMOCRACY IS STRONGER THAN VIOLENCE END QUOTE.

4. THE LABOAR UNIONS HAVE REACTED BY CALLNG FOR A SERIES OF STRIKE ACTIONS ON AUGUST 5. CGIL-CISL-UIL HAS CALLED FOR A FOUR-HOUR NATIONWIDE STRIKE STARTING AT 1300 HOURS. IN THE BOLOGNA AREA, AN EIGHT-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED WHILE ALL TRAINS WILL CEASE OPERATING FROM 1700 TO 1900 HOURS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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